[28th November 1928

(g) (1) The following is the personnel of the Excise Advisory Committee :—

President.

(1) The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar, Minister for Public Health.

Members.

(2) M.R.Ry. S. N. Dorai Raja Avargal, M.L.C.
(3) " K. Krishnan Avargal, M.L.C.
(4) " Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.
(5) " Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan Avargal, M.L.C.
(6) " Daniel Thomas Avargal, M.L.C.
(7) " K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar Avargal, M.L.C.
(8) Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.
(9) J. A. Davis, Esq., M.L.C.
(10) W. O. Wright, Esq., M.L.C.

(2) & (3) The Excise Advisory Committee has not submitted any report.

(h) & (i) The Government have not received any such resolutions.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to the answer to clauses (a), (b) and (c) I find that the answer is that the subject is still under consideration. I want to know . . . "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Questions to test the accuracy of answers given cannot be treated as supplementary questions."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I am asking the Government to throw some light on the answer already given. I want to know what steps the Government propose to take in the matter."

Thn hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The answer has been given on a former occasion."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—"May I know whether several municipal and local boards have not passed resolutions that the shops should be altogether removed from their limits."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Government have not received any such resolution."

Location of arrack shops at Nallagatla, Battulur and Erraguntla.

*783 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) when the arrack shops at Nallagatla, Battulur and Erraguntla of the Sirvel taluk of the Kurnool district were opened ;

(b) whether these villages are situated on the same road namely on the Chittoor-Kurnool road ; and

(c) what the distance from Nallagatla to Battulur and from Battulur to Erraguntla is ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) A report has been called for.

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Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know when the hon. the Minister called for the report?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"Soon after the receipt of the question from the Council office."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"Will he be pleased to place it on the table of the House when he receives it?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"I have no objection."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—"Do the Government mean to advocate total prohibition or advocate the removal of shops from the area?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"Government have not received any resolutions that any shops from the areas should be removed."

Closing of liquor shops in South Arcot district.

* 784 Q.—Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the excise revenue realized by Government from South Arcot district during the past five years;

(b) the number of liquor and toddy shops in this district during each of those five years;

(c) the number of trees licensed for tapping during the said period;

(d) the approximate amount of money spent on drink by people in the said period; and

(e) the steps, if any, taken by the Government to reduce the drink evil in that district during the said period?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the Annual Excise Administration Reports of the past five years which have been published.

(c) Figures showing the number of trees licensed in the district for tapping during the past five years are given below :—

Year.	Cocoanuts.	Palmyras.	Dates.
1923–24	49,382	13,258	8,600
1924–25	47,655	13,305	8,987
1925–26	52,179	12,526	8,144
1926–27	50,622	12,418	9,355
1927–28	48,402	13,233	8,449

(d) The Government have not the information.

(e) The measures specially applicable to South Arcot are :—

(1) The issue strength of country spirits was from 1st April 1925, reduced from 35° u.p. to 38° u.p. throughout the district except in the tracts adjoining French territory.

(2) From 1st April 1927, the duty on arrack issued to certain shops of the Manjakuppam range in this district was raised from Rs. 6–4–0 to Rs. 8–13–6 per proof gallon

(3) The limit of private possession of country spirits without licence was reduced from 8 to 6 drams from 1st April 1925 and from 1st April 1928, the limit was further reduced to 4 drams in all the municipalities of the district.

(4) The total number of licences for the sale of liquor was reduced from 887 in 1922–23 to 823 in 1927–28.